

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-05

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BC, LS, WZ

SUBJ: USDOC PROPOSED 1976 EVENT SCHEDULE FOR BOTSWANA,
LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND

REF: A-4090 STATE

1. BLS EMBASSIES APPRECIATE PROPOSED FY-76 EVENT SCHEDULE
AND BELIEVE PLANNED PROGRAM CAN MAKE CONTRIBUTION OUR EFFORTS
EXPAND US TRADE AND INVESTMENTS.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT AVIATION ELECTRONICS AND GROUND SUP-
PORT EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION BE PROGRAMMED FOR BOTH BOTS-
WANA AND SWAZILAND. IN ADDITION KNOWN SALE POTENTIAL BOTS-
WANA, SWAZI GOVT ACTIVELY SHIPPING FOR AIRCRAFT IN ANTICI-
PATION ESTABLISHING NATIONAL AIRLINE. ALSO, IT IS CERTAIN
THAT SWAZI AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT WILL BE MADE WITHIN NEXT 18
MONTHS- EITHER EXPANSION OF MATSAPHA OR NEW AIRPORT CONSTRU-
CTION AT MPAKA. WE WISH TO NOTE THAT LESOTHO IS GIVING SER-
IOUS CONSIDERATION TO CONSTRUCTING NEW AIRPORT AND ESTAB-
LISHING AIRLINE. IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT CONSIDERATION
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROGRAMMING THIS TRADE MISSION EARLIER THAN
AUG75 IN ORDER TAKE BETTER ADVANTAGE OF TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

3. OTHER FY-76 EVENTS PROPOSED ARE QUITE APPROPRIATE; HOW-
EVER, WE WILL NEED SOME MODEST COMMERCE FUNDING FOR OUR PARTI-
CIPATION IN JUL75 BOTSWANA AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE FAIR, AND
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ANNUAL SWAZILAND SHOW.

BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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